

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

S E C R E T ROME 000209

SIPDIS

FOR EUR/PRA, NP/ECNP, NEA/NGA, NEA/ENA, EUR/WE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/15/2013

TAGS: [ETTC](#) [PREL](#) [IT](#) [IR](#) [LY](#) [EXPORT](#) [CONTROLS](#)

SUBJECT: ITALIAN BOAT EXPORTS TO IRAN, LIBYA

REF: A. EDDY-COUNTRYMAN E-MAIL 01/11/03

[B](#). FINKBEINER-TEKACHBALL E-MAIL 08/01/02

[C](#). 02 STATE 266327

[D](#). 02 ROME 2977

[E](#). 02 ROME 2257

[F](#). 02 ROME 6098

[G](#). 02 ROME 6135

CLASSIFIED BY: ECONOMIC MINISTER-COUNSELOR SCOTT KILNER FOR REASONS 1.5

(B) AND (D)

[1](#). (S) IN RESPONSE TO REF A, ECONOFF MET JANUARY 14 WITH MFA NP COORDINATOR UGO DE MOHR TO ONCE AGAIN EXPRESS STRONG U.S. CONCERNS OVER THE SALE OF HIGH-SPEED PATROL BOATS FROM ITALIAN FIRMS TO IRAN, AND TO INQUIRE WHETHER ANY SUCH VESSELS HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO IRAN. (REFS D-G CHRONICLE OUR PREVIOUS EXCHANGES WITH THE GOI ON THIS AND OTHER IRAN-RELATED NP ISSUES.) DE MOHR RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER ANY OF THE BOATS HAD BEEN DELIVERED FROM THE COMPANIES TO IRAN. REITERATING WHAT HE TOLD US DURING OUR INQUIRY IN LATE JULY (REF B), DE MOHR SAID THAT, SINCE THE GOI HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE BOATS WERE NEITHER MILITARY NOR DUAL-USE IN NATURE, THEY WERE NOT SUBJECT TO GOI CONTROLS (SUCH AS AN EXPORT LICENSE). AS SUCH, THE GOI HAD NOT FOLLOWED UP TO SEE WHETHER THE BOATS WERE EVER DELIVERED. DE MOHR AGREED, HOWEVER, TO CHECK INTO THE MATTER FOR US. HE ALSO NOTED THAT, AFTER OUR JULY CONVERSATION, HE HAD CONSULTED ONCE AGAIN WITH OTHER GOI AGENCIES, ALL OF WHICH CONFIRMED THEIR VIEWS THAT THE BOATS WERE SOLELY CIVILIAN IN NATURE.

[2](#). (S) ECONOFF ALSO STRESSED THAT USG CONCERNS ABOUT THE DELIVERY OF THESE VESSELS TO IRAN WERE SO STRONG THAT THE ISSUE MIGHT BE RAISED DURING FOREIGN MINISTER FRATTINI'S UPCOMING MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. DE MOHR RESPONDED THAT IN ANY BRIEFING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER HE WOULD REITERATE THE GOI INTERAGENCY CONSENSUS THAT THE BOATS WERE NEITHER MILITARY NOR DUAL USE, WHILE POINTING OUT THE OPPOSING US VIEW. HE WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT THERE WAS NO LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR THE GOI TO STOP DELIVERY OF THE BOATS, GIVEN THE GOI'S EVALUATION OF THEIR USE.

[3](#). (C) ECONOFF ALSO RAISED THE POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF ITALIAN COMPANIES IN THE COMPETITION FOR CONTRACTS TO RETROFIT LIBYAN BOATS TO MAKE THEM SUITABLE FOR TRAINING DIVERS (REF C). DE MOHR TOLD US THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH INTEREST ON THE PART OF ITALIAN FIRMS.  
SKODON